United Nations A/ES-10/263–S/2004/279

General Assembly
Security Council

Distr.: General
7 April 2004

Original: English

General Assembly
Tenth emergency special session
Agenda item 5
Illegal Israeli actions in Occupied East Jerusalem and the rest of the Occupied Palestinian Territory

Security Council
Fifty-ninth year

Identical letters dated 7 April 2004 from the Chargé d'affaires a.i. of the Permanent Observer Mission of Palestine to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General and the President of the Security Council

The situation on the ground in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, continues to deteriorate as Israel, the occupying Power, continues to commit war crimes, State terrorism and systematic human rights violations against the Palestinian people. In addition to its ongoing illegal policies and practices, the occupying Power continues to take measures and actions intended to further inflame and escalate the cycle of violence and completely undermine any efforts to calm the situation and bring about a return to negotiations between the two sides.

In this regard, following the extrajudicial killing two weeks ago of Sheikh Ahmed Yassin in Gaza City by helicopter missile fire, Israeli government and military officials have made repeated statements alluding to the potential for similar action to be taken against the elected President of the Palestinian Authority, President Yasser Arafat. Threats to assassinate the elected leader of the Palestinian people, who for more than two years now has been confined to his headquarters in Ramallah under Israeli siege, have even been made by the Israeli Prime Minister himself, who, it should be recalled, boasted about his personal involvement in overseeing the operation in which Sheikh Yassin was assassinated and vowed in the immediate aftermath that the illegal practice of extrajudicial executions against Palestinian leaders would continue. While similar threats against the safety and well-being of President Arafat have been made by the Israeli government, in the current context, such contemptuous statements and threats must be taken seriously when issued by a government that continues to act with flagrant impunity and blatant disregard for any norms or principles of international law, including international humanitarian law.

At the same time, as noted above, the Israeli occupying forces continue to kill and wound Palestinian civilians almost daily as the occupying Power continues to pursue its illegal policies and practices throughout the Occupied Palestinian

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Territory, including East Jerusalem. At least 23 Palestinians, including several children, have been killed by the occupying forces since our last letter to you. Indeed, the occupying forces continue to use excessive, indiscriminate and lethal force against the Palestinian civilian population, including against unarmed civilians demonstrating against the occupying Power. Today, at least 15 Palestinians were wounded by tear gas and rubber bullets fired upon them by the Israeli occupying forces as they protested peacefully against Israel's ongoing construction of the Wall in the Occupied Palestinian Territory and tried to prevent the demolition of a home and the uprooting of olive trees in the village of Biddu, northwest of Jerusalem. Severe restrictions on the freedom of movement of persons and goods also continue to be imposed by the occupying Power, with complete closures imposed on the Occupied Palestinian Territory during the recent Jewish holiday, gravely obstructing the provision of humanitarian assistance and severely exacerbating the socioeconomic hardships being faced by the Palestinian civilian population.

This letter is in follow-up to our previous 185 letters to you regarding the ongoing crisis in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, since 28 September 2000. These letters, dated from 29 September 2000 (A/55/432-S/2000/921) to 22 March 2004 (A/ES-10/262-S/2004/231), constitute a basic record of the crimes committed by the Israeli occupying forces against the Palestinian people since September 2000. For all of these war crimes, State terrorism and systematic human rights violations committed against the Palestinian people, Israel, the occupying Power, must be held accountable and the perpetrators must be brought to justice.

Accordingly, in follow-up to the above-mentioned letters, I regret to inform you that, since my last letter to you, at least 23 Palestinians have been killed by the Israeli occupying forces, raising the total number of martyrs killed since September 2000 to 2,881 Palestinians. (The names of the martyrs that have been identified are contained in the annex to the present letter.)

I would be grateful if you would arrange to have the text of the present letter and its annex distributed as a document of the tenth emergency special session of the General Assembly, under agenda item 5, and of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Somaia **Barghouti**
Chargé d'affaires a.i.

Annex to the identical letters dated 7 April 2004 from the Chargé d'affaires a.i. of the Permanent Observer Mission of Palestine to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General and the President of the Secretary-General

Names of martyrs killed by the Israeli occupying forces in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem* (Tuesday, 23 March 2004, to Wednesday, 7 April 2004)

Tuesday, 23 March 2004

1. Abdullah Hassan Al-Mugheer (18 years old)
2. Mohammed Ahmed Murshid Al-Qadi
3. Yasser Izzat Sultan Edwan

Wednesday, 24 March 2004

1. Ibrahim Khalil Ibrahim Al-Ghandoor
2. Humani Mohammed Abu Al-Omrain
3. Atef Mohammed Awaja (18 years old)

Friday, 26 March 2004

1. Zakaria Mohammed Mahmoud Abu Zur (18 years old)
2. Issaq Fayez Nassar (18 years old)
3. Ahmed Nasser Kamil Abed
4. Mahmoud Omar Al-Zaghari

Saturday, 27 March 2004

Khalid Maher Saleem Walweel (7 years old)

Sunday, 28 March 2004

Jamil Talab Odeh Atil

Wednesday, 31 March 2004

Mahmoud Khamis Abu Odeh

Friday, 2 April 2004

1. Nassar Issa Ibrahim Hajahjeh (16 years old)
2. Rami Khalil Mahmoud Irheim
3. Mohammed Azmi Abed (18 years old)

Saturday, 3 April 2004

Mohammed Shaheen

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* The total number of Palestinian martyrs killed by Israeli occupying forces since 28 September 2000 is 2,881.

Sunday, 4 April 2004

Rami Mohammed Ismail Ihdeib (18 years old)

Monday, 5 April 2004

1. Adham Abdelqader Abu Hashim
2. Mohammed Salameh Abu Ruweida (18 years old)
3. Imad Adnan Irjoudi (18 years old)
4. Mohammed Ziyad Abu Samhadaneh

Wednesday, 7 April 2004

Ibrahim Khalid Mohammed Abu Sreis (17 years old)

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Distr.: General
19 April 2004

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Fifty-ninth year

Identical letters dated 19 April 2004 from the Permanent Observer of Palestine to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General and the President of the Security Council

Israel, the occupying Power, continues its reign of terror over the Palestinian people. In grave breach of international law and of its obligations as an occupying Power, Israel persists in its deliberate use of excessive, indiscriminate and disproportionate force against the Palestinian civilian population in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem. This has included the vicious and unlawful practice of extrajudicial executions.

Less than four weeks after the extrajudicial execution of Sheikh Ahmed Yassin in Gaza City, the Israeli occupying forces carried out yet another extrajudicial execution on Saturday, 17 April 2004, killing a Palestinian man, Abdel Aziz Al-Rantisi, a political leader of Hamas, as well as two other Palestinians who had been with him. Following the same pattern of tactics and means as those used in countless other previous extrajudicial executions, the occupying forces fired missiles at the vehicle in which Dr. Al-Rantisi was riding, destroying it and killing him and those travelling with him and endangering the safety of others in the densely populated area in the Gaza Strip. In fact, Dr. Al-Rantisi was the target of another such attack in June 2003, when the Israeli occupying forces attempted to kill him by firing seven missiles from a helicopter gunship at his car on a crowded street in Gaza City. Although he survived that attack, 2 Palestinians, including a woman, were killed and at least 25 others were wounded.

This latest war crime was committed by the occupying Power in fulfilment of the virulent and repeated threats of Israeli Prime Minister Sharon and other Israeli government and military officials to continue targeting Palestinian leaders for assassination in blatant violation of international law, including international humanitarian law, and in total disregard of the pleas and demands by the international community for Israel to cease such an illegal policy. Indeed, Prime Minister Sharon and other high-ranking Israeli officials publicly boasted about the success of the operation following Dr. Al-Rantisi's killing and continued to direct threats against other Palestinian leaders.

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Undoubtedly, the recent failure of the Security Council to condemn the extrajudicial execution of Sheikh Yassin and to take the necessary measures to address the overall deterioration of the situation, owing to a veto cast by one of its permanent members on 23 March, has further emboldened the Israeli Government to continue carrying out such illegal actions with impunity. Unable to hold to its duties with respect to the maintenance of international peace and security when it comes to the situation in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, the Council has allowed Israel to continue acting as though it were above the law, permitting it to use the most oppressive measures to impose more death, destruction and misery on the Palestinian people under its occupation without consequence. In fact, since the Council's last debate on the matter less than one month ago, the Israeli occupying forces have killed a total of 37 Palestinian civilians, including women and children, some of whom were killed during non-violent protests against the expansionist Wall being built by Israel in the Occupied Palestinian Territory.

In parallel to, and in conjunction with, the constant violations being carried out by the Israeli occupying forces against the Palestinian people, the Government of Israel also continues to attempt unilateral actions that are intended to further entrench the illegitimate measures taken by Israel in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem. Such unilateral actions are being pursued in direct violation of the resolutions of the Security Council and the General Assembly as well as in violation of the agreements reached between the sides in the context of the Middle East peace process. The recent proposals by Prime Minister Sharon to impose a unilateral "disengagement" were taken one step further this past week with the exchange of letters between Mr. Sharon and United States President George Bush, the content of which violates international law and the rights of the Palestinian people, drastically departs from the road map (S/2003/529, annex) and renders the work of the Quartet almost impossible.

The Palestinian leadership calls upon the international community, including in particular the Security Council, to immediately become seized of the matter and to take urgent measures to address the grave deterioration of the situation in the Occupied Palestinian Territory as a result of the ongoing and blatant aggressions being committed by Israel, the occupying Power, against the Palestinian people. Serious action must be undertaken to compel Israel to cease forthwith its flagrant violations of international law, including the Fourth Geneva Convention, and to bring about a resumption of negotiations between the two sides towards a resolution of this tragic conflict.

The present letter is in follow-up to our previous 186 letters to you regarding the ongoing crisis in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, since 28 September 2000. These letters, dated from 29 September 2000 (A/55/432-S/2000/921) to 7 April 2004 (A/ES-10/263-S/2004/279), constitute a basic record of the crimes committed by the Israeli occupying forces against the Palestinian people since September 2000. For all of the war crimes, State terrorism and systematic human rights violations committed against the Palestinian people, Israel, the occupying Power, must be held accountable and the perpetrators must be brought to justice.

Accordingly, in follow-up to the above-mentioned letters, I regret to inform you that, since our last letter to you, at least 14 Palestinians, including children, have been killed by the Israeli occupying forces, raising the total number of martyrs

killed since September 2000 to 2,895 Palestinians. (The names of the martyrs that have been identified are contained in the annex to the present letter.)

I would be grateful if you would arrange to have the text of this letter and its annex distributed as a document of the tenth emergency special session of the General Assembly, under agenda item 5, and of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Nasser **Al-Kidwa**
Ambassador
Permanent Observer of Palestine to the United Nations

Annex to the identical letters dated 19 April 2004 from the Permanent Observer of Palestine to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General and the President of the Security Council

Names of martyrs killed by the Israeli occupying forces in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem* (Saturday, 10 April 2004, to Monday, 19 April 2004)

Saturday, 10 April 2004

Iman Mohammed Khalil Talabeh (12 years old)

Sunday, 11 April 2004

Mohammed Mahmoud Abdelrahman Deriyah

Monday, 12 April 2004

1. Eyad Mahmoud Mohammed Al-Tahrawi
2. Ahmed Khaled Hassan

Tuesday, 13 April 2004

Fuad Ahmed Abdelrahman Sultan

Thursday, 15 April 2004

Ali Mahmoud Barhoum

Friday, 16 April 2004

1. Mustafa Munib Sarsour
2. Hussein Mahmoud Hussein Awad Alayan (17 years old)

Saturday, 17 April 2004

1. Yasser Samer Ismail Abu Jamil
2. Ahmed Abdel Aziz Nimer Yazak
3. Abdel Aziz Ali Abdelhafith Al-Rantisi
4. Ahmed Abduallah Al-Ghara
5. Akram Mansei Nassar

Monday, 19 April 2004

Di'ya Abdelkarim Ibrahim Abu Eid

* The total number of Palestinian martyrs killed by Israeli occupying forces since 28 September 2000 is 2,895.